
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: April 30, 2013
Time: 3:00 p.m.

PETERSBURG/WRANGELL HERRING UPDATE #10

The department conducted an aerial survey today, April 30, of the Hobart Bay/Port Houghton area between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The survey conditions were fair with high overcast skies and winds between 15 and 20 mph.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

No herring schools or herring spawn were observed during today's survey. Marine mammal activity has increased slightly from the last survey and still concentrated in areas of deep water. Herring activity in Farragut Bay often predates herring activity in the Hobart Bay/Port Houghton area by a few days. Farragut Bay showed a slight improvement in marine mammal activity with 10 sea lions; however, there was no herring or herring spawn observed. The next flight is scheduled for Friday, May 3.

Herring spawning in Hobart Bay/Port Houghton has an average first spawn date of April 26 since 1986 and has ranged from as early as April 18 in 1987 and 1998 to as late as May 7 in 2004. The average date of peak spawn in Hobart Bay/Port Houghton is April 27. Aerial surveys of the area have not yet detected any spawning events. Although later than average to date, this season continues to be within the historical range of spawn timing. The date of first herring spawn has occurred 10 times on, or after, April 30 since 1986.

2013 Survey Herring Summary

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

April 16 No herring activity, 71 sea lions, 2 whales, 100 scoters.
April 19 No herring activity, 102 sea lions, 550 scoters.
April 22 No herring activity, 81 seas lions, 1,500 scoters.
April 24 No herring activity, 31 sea lions.
April 27 No herring activity, 30 sea lions, 1,600 scoters.
April 30 No herring activity, 45 sea lions, 1,100 scoters.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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